

Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-27.

Please add the following new claims:

28. (New) A knitting machine comprising:
at least one knitting needle;
at least one positive yarn feed device for feeding yarn to said at least one knitting needle;
needle monitoring means for providing needle selection data relating to the at least one knitting needle during the course of a knitting operation; and
a controller for controlling the operation of the positive yarn feed device;
in which the controller is adapted to: receive information from the needle monitoring means during the course of a knitting operation; use said information to calculate a desired amount of yarn to be fed to a knitting needle; and control the positive yarn feed device so that the positive yarn feed device feeds the desired amount of yarn to the knitting needle during the course of the knitting operation.
29. (New) A knitting machine according to claim 28 in which the positive yarn feed device comprises a servomotor which is controlled by the controller.
30. (New) A knitting machine according to 28 further comprising at least one stitch cam, in which the operation of the stitch cam is controlled by the controller during the course of a knitting operation.
31. (New) A knitting machine according to claim 30 in which the stitch cam comprises a stitch cam motor for varying the position of said stitch cam, and the operation of the stitch cam motor is controlled by the controller during the course of a knitting operation.

32. (New) A knitting machine according to claim 31 in which the stitch cam motor comprises a stepper motor.

33. (New) A knitting machine according to claim 31 in which the stitch cam motor comprises a servomotor.

34. (New) A knitting machine according to claim 30 in which the controller controls the operation of the stitch cam so as to produce knitted loops of predetermined characteristics, preferably a predetermined stitch length.

35. (New) A knitting machine comprising at least one knitting needle; at least one positive yarn feed device for feeding yarn to said at least one knitting needle; needle monitoring means for providing information relating to the at least one knitting needle during the course of a knitting operation; a controller for controlling the operation of the positive yarn feed device; and fabric take down means, in which the operation of the fabric take down means is controlled by the controller during the course of a knitting operation, the controller receiving data from the needle monitoring means during the course of a knitting operation, using said data to calculate a desired amount of yarn to be fed to a knitting needle; and controlling the positive yarn feed device to feed the desired amount of yarn to the knitting needle during the course of the knitting operation.

36. (New) A knitting machine according to claim 35 in which the fabric take down means comprises a fabric take down motor, and the operation of the fabric take down motor is controlled by the controller during the course of a knitting operation.

37. (New) A knitting machine according to claim 36 in which the fabric take down motor comprises a servomotor.

38. (New) A knitting machine according to claim 35 in which the controller controls the operation of the fabric take down means in accordance with the stitch length employed by the knitting machine.

39. (New) A knitting machine comprising at least one knitting needle; at least one positive yarn feed device for feeding yarn to said at least one knitting needle; needle monitoring means for providing information relating to the at least one knitting needle during the course of a knitting operation; a controller for controlling the operation of the positive yarn feed device; and tension measuring means for measuring the tension of yarn fed to the at least one knitting needle, and the controller receiving data from the needle monitoring means during the course of a knitting operation, using said data to calculate a desired amount of yarn to be fed to a knitting needle; and controlling the positive yarn feed device to feed the desired amount of yarn to the knitting needle during the course of the knitting operation in which the yarn tension measured by the tension measuring means is communicated to the controller, and the controller utilises the measured yarn tension to control the knitting operation.

40. (New) A knitting machine according to claim 39 in which the controller controls the operation of the stitch cam in accordance with the yarn tension measured by the tension measuring means.

41. (New) A knitting machine comprising at least one knitting needle; at least one positive yarn feed device for feeding yarn to said at least one knitting needle; needle monitoring means for providing information relating to the at least one knitting needle during the course of a knitting operation; a controller for controlling the operation of the positive yarn feed device; and fabric take down means, in which the operation of the fabric take down means is controlled by the controller during the course of a knitting operation, and the controller receiving data from the needle monitoring means during the course of a knitting operation, using said data to calculate a desired amount of yarn to be fed to a knitting needle; and controlling the

positive yarn feed device to feed the desired amount of yarn to the knitting needle during the course of the knitting operation, in which the controller controls the operation of the fabric take down means in accordance with the yarn tension measured by the tension measuring means for measuring the tension of yarn fed to the at least one knitting needle.

42. (New) A flat-bed knitting machine according to claim 28.

43. (New) A method comprising the steps of:

knitting a knitted structure with at least one yarn whilst supplying an amount of said yarn to at least one knitting needle using at least one positive yarn feed device;

maintaining operation of said at least one needle and providing needle selection data during the course of the knitting;

using said needle selection data to calculate a desired amount of yarn to be fed to a knitting needle; and

controlling the positive yarn feed device so that said device feeds the desired amount of yarn to the knitting needle during the course of the knitting.

44. (New) A method according to claim 43 further comprising the step of controlling the operation of a stitch cam during the course of the knitting.

45. (New) A method according to claim 44 in which the step of controlling the operation of the stitch cam comprises controlling the operation of a stitch cam motor, which stitch cam motor varies the position of said stitch cam.

46. (New) A method according to claim 44 in which the operation of the stitch cam is controlled so as to produce knitted loops of predetermined characteristics, preferably a predetermined stitch length.

47. (New) A method according to 43 further comprising the step of controlling the operation of fabric take down means during the course of the knitting.

48. (New) A method according to claim 47 in which the step of controlling the fabric take down means comprises controlling the operation of a fabric take down motor.

49. (New) A method according to claim 47 in which the operation of the fabric take down means is controlled in accordance with the stitch length employed during the knitting.

50. (New) A method according to claim 43 further comprising the step of measuring the tension of yarn fed to the at least one knitting needle, in which the measured yarn tension is utilised to control the knitting.

51. (New) A method according to claim 50 in which the operation of the stitch cam is controlled in accordance with the measured yarn tension.

52. (New) A method according to claim 50 in which the operation of the fabric take down means is controlled in accordance with the measured yarn tension.

53. (New) A method of knitting according to claim 43 in which knitting is performed on a flat bed knitting machine.

54. (New) A method according to claim 43 in which the stitch length is varied.